



First Grade News

Reading - This week in reading we read our new story, "Firefighters". This is a non-fiction story about what firefighters do. We learned about the fire engine, their special clothes, and how they are able to breathe while putting out the fire. We had to look at the pictures and say what we thought it was about. Then we read the story several times. Re-reading a story is very important to reading success. Please ask your child about the story "Firefighters".

Phonics - The students were introduced to three new sounds this week, "s", "f", and "p". First they had to listen to us say the words slowly and tell us what words I was saying. Next we said the words and they had to say it slowly. Then we introduced three new "high frequency" words, "to", "said" and "from" that the students had to say by sight. Each lesson we will be adding more words that they must recognize. Finally we used the new sounds to make some words, "sat", "Pam", and "fast". Please ask your child about these sounds and words.

Writing -We continued completing the first 20 lessons of "Writers Workshop". This week we began by introducing the "Writing Notebook". Basically this is showing the students that throughout the year, we will use different paper for different writing activities. Next we discussed the "Writing Portfolio". This is where the students collect their writing. Then we discussed how different things can trigger our memory and help us think of topics to write about. Finally we read the story, "Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge" and discussed how a little boy helps an old woman search for her memory by showing her items from her past. We tried to do this to help us write about our memories. Please ask your child what they wrote about this week.

Math - This week we began by discussing addition and what it means. We said that addition is when you take two or more groups and put them together. To do this we established "ten" as a benchmark by using our friend "Tommy the Ten Frame". Next, we reviewed "tally marks" and learned a tally marks game. Then we discussed "counting on". This means that you start at one number and then count up from that number. For example, "8"...9,10, 11. This can help us add numbers quickly. Please practice some of these topics with your child at home. *Next week the first graders are taking the NWEA math test on the computer. Please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest and eats a healthy breakfast in the morning.

Important Notes

- Thank you to all of the families that sent in a peeled and cored apple. The kids really enjoyed eating the apple sauce that we all made.
- You should have received a list of the first grade sight words. Please practice these words on a weekly basis. By the end of first grade they have to say all of the words quickly. A couple of ideas to practice these words are if you make some words and play "Bingo" or make them into a "Memory" game. The students think they are playing a game and not just practicing words.
- Please collect Box Tops For Education and send them in. This is a great way to make money for the school. Our class has sent the PTA several baggies full so far. Thank you to all of the families that have already sent some in.
- At Open House, several families signed up for a conference time. If you were not able to come to Open House please see me before or after school so we can make a conference time.
- Thank You to all of the families that are sending their child in with a healthy snack. If they bring in cookies, cakes, or donuts, I am not allowed to let them eat it. It is too much sugar and some students have a hard time concentrating after eating a sugary snack.
- Please remember to have your child wear sneakers on "Gym" days. It is important that your child wears sneakers so they can participate in the fun. If you need another copy of the letters day calendar please see us or the main office.
- If you need to speak to us, before or after school is a convenient time. You can also e-mail us at b59gcara@manchesterct.gov, b47jmedy@manchesterct.gov, and b57dwats@manchesterct.gov or send in a note with your child and we will respond to you as quickly as I can.

Important Dates to Remember:

- September 26th: PBIS Assembly 2:00pm
- September 26th: Dental Bus visits Waddell
- September 29th: Dental Bus visits Waddell
- October 3rd: UCONN visits Grade 1
- October 8th: PTA Meeting 3:50pm
- October 13th: No School-Columbus Day
- October 17th: School Store
- October 22nd: District PD $\frac{1}{2}$ day
- October 24th: Halloween Party

Thank You,
Mr. Carabillo
Mrs. Medynski
Mrs. Watson